

USAID



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

LAC-IEE-02-53

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Activity Location : Region-wide with focus on Central America and the Dominican Republic

Activity Title : Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training

Activity Number : 598-023

Funding : \$19 million

Life of Project : 5 years

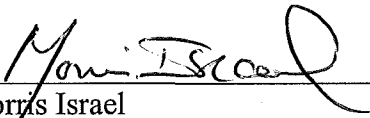
IEE Prepared by : Susan Morawetz, LAC/RSD and
Barbara Knox-Seith, AAAS Diplomacy
Fellow/Education Advisor, USAID/W

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendations

Comments:

This IEE amends LAC-IEE-01-48. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii), and (v), a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued to the activities of this program involving education, technical assistance, or training, as they will not have a negative impact on the environment.

 9/11/02
Morris Israel
Deputy Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Copy to : Cecily Mango, Director, LAC/RSD

Copy to : Dave Evans, Team Leader, LAC/RSD/EHR

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Initial Environmental Evaluation: Amendement 1

Activity location: Region-wide with focus on Central America and the Dominican Republic

Activity title: Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training

Activity number: 598-023

Funding: \$19 million

Life of activity: 5 years

IEE prepared by: Susan Morawetz, LAC/RSD and
Barbara Knox-Seith, AAAS Diplomacy
Fellow/Education Advisor, USAID/W

Recommended threshold decision: Categorical Exclusion

Background

On August 24, 2001 an Initial Environmental Examination (LAC-IEE-01-48) was approved for LAC/RSD's 2001-2006 Regional Strategic Objective, *Strengthened Regional Initiatives to Improve Equity and Quality in Education and Training*. This IEE for \$21.2 million of CSD funds (of the total \$68.5 million authorized by the strategic objective) included the initial \$1 million design phase of the 2000 Summit of the Americas initiative, the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT). However, the 2001 IEE did not cover the remaining \$19 million of the \$20 million CETT initiative. Thus, this IEE (Amendment 1) for \$19 million is to seek a categorical exclusion for the remainder of the CETT program, which includes both the final design and implementation of the three regional CETT centers.

Note that this IEE does not request approval for the Georgetown Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS) Program which will need to be approved separately following amendment of the Activity Approval Document and an increase to the authorized funding level for SO23.

Summary Activity Description

In FY02, USAID/W will begin implementation of three regional teacher training activities, one in each of the Caribbean, Central American, and Andean regions. The CETT is intended to improve reading instruction—and literacy—in the region through teacher training, focused on teachers of the early primary grades. In each region, local universities are collaborating to develop and implement the activities in public schools. In the Caribbean, the CETT will be developed and implemented by the University of the West Indies, working through the Joint Boards of Teacher Education. In Central America, the CETT will be led by Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Marazán (UPN) in Honduras, and in the Andes, the CETT will be led by Universidad Cayetano Heredia in Peru.

Specific activities will include:

Each CETT will improve teacher training in reading instruction in the three regions through:

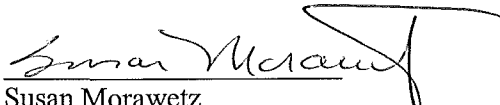
- (1) providing in-service teacher training to improve teachers' pedagogical skills, especially in reading instruction;
- (2) providing assessment instruments for teachers to assess student performance in reading and diagnose difficulties;
- (3) generating teaching and learning materials focused on improving reading instruction in the classroom;
- (4) using applied research to enhance the teacher training, tools, and materials and ensure the excellence of the training; and
- (5) applying Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to facilitate information sharing and extend the reach of the CETT through distance education and a web portal.

The CETT will not include construction or rehab of structures.

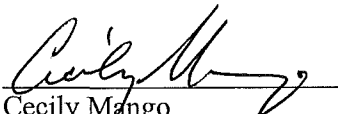
Recommended Threshold for CETT Program

As was provided in the original IEE for SO23, it is recommended that a categorical exclusion also be approved for all five CETT activities since all interventions fall within 22 CFR Section 216.2 c as follows:

- (1)(i) The action does not have an effect on the natural or physical environment;
- (2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);
- (2)(iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings; and
- (2)(iv) Document and information transfers.


Susan Morawetz
Acting Team Leader LAC/RSD/EHR

Concurrence


Cecily Mango
Director, RSD

USAID



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

LAC-IEE-01-48

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Activity Location : LAC Region

Activity Title : SO2: Strengthened Regional Initiatives to Improve Equity and Quality in Education and Training

Activity Number : 598-023

Funding : \$21.2 million

Life of Project : 5 years

IEE Prepared by : Aleksandra Braginski, LAD/RSD/EHR

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendation

Comments

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), a **Categorical Exclusion** is granted to all proposed activities since they are limited to education, technical assistance, and training programs that will not have an impact on the environment.

sa. [Signature] Date 8/24/01
Jeffrey J. Brokaw
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

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